NWT Mineral Development Strategy

Annual Report for 2015 – 2016

Stratégie d'exploitation des minéraux des TNO

Rapport annuel 2015 – 2016

Government of Northwest Territories
Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

NWT Mineral Development Strategy

Annual Report for 2015 – 2016

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Kīspin ki nitawihtīn ē nīhīyawihk ōma ācimōwin, tipwāsinān.
Cree

Tłı̨chǫ yatı k'ę̀ę̀. Dı wegodı newǫ dè, gots'o gonede.
Tłı̨chǫ

ʔerıhtł'ís Dëne Sųłıné yatı t'a huts'elkër xa beyáyatı theɔ́ą ɔat'e, nuwe ts'ën yółtı.
Chipewyan

Edı gondı dehgáh got'ı̨e zhatıé k'ę́ę́ edatł'éh enahddhę nıde naxets'ę́ edahłı.
South Slavey

K'áhshó got'ı̨ne xədə k'é hederı ɔedı̨htl'é yerınıwę nídé dúle.
North Slavey

Jii gwandak izhii ginjik vat'atr'ijąhch'uu zhit yinohthan jì', diits'àt ginohkhii.
Gwich'in

Uvanittuaq ilitchurisukupku Inuvialuktun, ququaqluta.
Inuvialuktun

ᑖᒃᑯᐊ ᑎᑎᖅᑲᐃᑦ ᐱᓕᒍᐃᖏᑦ ᐃᓄᒃᑎᑐᓕᖕᒥᓯᒪᓂᖅ, ᐅᕙᑦᑎᓐᓄᑦ ᐅᖃᒃᑲᓕᔪᓐᓇᖅᑐᑐᒃ.
Inuktitut

Hapkua titiqqat pijumagupkit Inuinnaqtun, uvaptinnut hivajarlutit.
Inuinnaqtun

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Table of Contents

Minister's Message	**1**
Message du ministre	**2**
Executive Summary	**3**
Resumé	**6**
List of Acronyms	**9**
List of Tables, Figures and Maps	**10**
1. Introduction	**11**
2. Background	**14**
NWT Mineral Development Strategy – Vision, Guiding Principles, Goals	**15**
3. Activities and Achievements 2015 – 2016	**18**
3.1 Funded Activities	**18**
Summary of Funded Activities	**26**
3.2 Non-Funded Key Activities	**27**
Summary of Non-Funded Key Activities	**35**
Other Activities	**36**
4. How the NWT Mineral Development Strategy Supports Other GNWT Commitments	**37**
5. Next Steps	**38**
References	**39**
Appendix I: NWT Mineral Developmen Strategy Activities That Support GNWT Commitments	**40**

Minister's Message

For the better part of the last century, we have described our mining sector as the foundation, the backbone, and the glue of the Northwest Territories (NWT) economy.

The mining industry has provided more jobs and business opportunities than any other private sector in our territory. As importantly, investments from mining companies, resource royalties and training and career opportunities enable governments, including our own, to deliver programs and services that our residents deserve and expect.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is committed to seeing our mining industry thrive and in 2013 the ambitious Mineral Development Strategy (MDS) was developed.

The Strategy is a living document that lays the foundation for investments and work in the territory's mineral industry. It aims to attract investment, support northern jobs and business, strengthen Aboriginal engagement and community capacity, support a new regulatory environment, and promote environmental stewardship and effective land use planning.

Our work to implement this strategy is reflected, in part, in this MDS Annual Report for 2015 – 2016.

Through continued collaboration with our valued partners, we will fulfill the goals of the MDS and build a positive legacy for this vital sector and a prosperous future for the people of the NWT.

The Honourable Wally Schumann

Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment

Message du ministre

Pendant la plus grande partie du siècle dernier, nous avons décrit notre secteur minier comme le pilier, le fer-de-lance ou le socle de l'économie des Territoires du Nord-Ouest.

L'industrie minière a en effet généré plus d'emplois et d'occasions d'affaires que toute autre industrie du secteur privé, aux TNO. Il importe de rappeler aussi que les investissements faits par les sociétés minières, les redevances tirées de l'exploitation des ressources ainsi que les débouchés professionnels et les possibilités de formation sont autant d'atouts qui permettent aux gouvernements, y compris le nôtre, d'offrir à la population les programmes et services qu'elle mérite et auxquels elle s'attend.

Résolu à favoriser l'essor de l'industrie minière, le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (GTNO) a élaboré en 2013 un ambitieux plan appelé Stratégie d'exploitation des minéraux (SEM).

Cette stratégie est un document évolutif qui pourra servir de base aux investissements et aux travaux de l'industrie minière aux TNO. La SEM vise à attirer des investissements, à soutenir le marché de l'emploi et les entreprises d'ici, à renforcer la mobilisation des Autochtones et à rehausser les capacités des collectivités, à soutenir un nouveau contexte réglementaire et, à favoriser l'intendance environnementale ainsi qu'un aménagement efficace des terres.

Nos efforts pour mettre en œuvre cette stratégie se reflètent en partie dans le présent rapport annuel.

Grâce à une collaboration continue avec nos précieux partenaires, nous atteindrons les objectifs de la Stratégie d'exploitation des minéraux, bâtirons un legs favorable à ce secteur essentiel et assurerons un avenir prospère à la population ténoise.

Wally Schumann,

ministre de l'Industrie, du Tourisme et de l'Investissement

Executive Summary

The *Northwest Territories Mineral Development Strategy – Annual Report for 2015 – 2016* (Annual Report) presents the results of activities carried out in relation to the NWT *Mineral Development Strategy* (MDS). It is the second annual report on the implementation of this Strategy and documents the continuing realization of its vision of responsible and sustainable mineral resource development in the Northwest Territories (NWT).

The MDS is one of the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT's) key policy instruments in improving investor and public confidence in the resource sector. Implementation of the MDS supports 22 commitments in the GNWT's mandate for the 18th Legislative Assembly. Benefits from the implementation of the MDS and the non-renewable resource production in general, enable investment in many of the priority areas of the Legislative Assembly.

The MDS is a 10 – 15 year Strategy and the collaboration and involvement of MDS partners is critical to its implementation. Since its release in 2013, several documents have been published to guide and track its progress:

- MDS (2013)
- MDS Implementation Plan 2014 – 2015 (2014)
- MDS – Progress Report 2014 – 2015 (2015)
- MDS – GNWT Implementation Plan 2014 – 2019 (2016)
- MDS – Annual Report 2015 – 2016 (2017)
- MDS Performance Measures Report 2015 – 2016 (2017)

In the 2015 – 2016 fiscal year, the existing implementation plan was reviewed and updated with approximately 55 leads and partners, in order to establish a five-year plan: the *Northwest Territories Mineral Development Strategy – GNWT Implementation Plan 2014 – 2019* (Implementation Plan).

The content of this document should be considered as interim reporting on outcomes until data from survey results and impact evidence for short and medium-term activities becomes available. For many activities, it will take several years before these can be included in an annual report. The achievements and outcomes outlined are presented with the best-available evidence for work carried out during 2015 – 2016. Future annual reports will use new data collection and reporting methods (such as public feedback and client surveys) to improve the measurement of outcomes of MDS activities.

A reporting plan is in place to track implementation and achievements of the MDS. The Performance Measurement Framework allows for the regular collection of information and monitoring of how the Strategy and its related programs are doing at any point in time.

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment's (ITI's) Mineral Resources Division (MRD) is responsible for monitoring implementation and coordinating annual reporting on the MDS.

The MDS

The vision of the MDS is to realize, responsibly and sustainably, the full potential of our rich mineral resources and use it to support ongoing prosperity for Northwest Territories (NWT) residents and communities. To realize the vision for mineral development, and to respond to identified needs, the MDS formulates five long-term goals, or strategy pillars:

PILLARS:

1. Creating a Competitive Edge
    - Establish the NWT as a destination of choice for responsible mineral investment, exploration and development.
2. Establishing an Improved NWT Regulatory Environment
    - Improve client service and increase regulatory clarity and process certainty.
3. Enhancing Aboriginal Engagement and Community Capacity Building
    - Establish effective engagement, consultation and community capacity building processes.
4. Promoting Sustainability
    - Ensure a lasting legacy including environmental stewardship and protection.
5. Enriching Workforce Development and Public Awareness
    - Develop an educated, trained and readily available northern workforce and an awareness of the importance and impacts of the minerals development industry.

Achievements 2015 – 2016

This year's reporting is different from the first MDS Implementation Progress Report April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015. The first progress report on MDS implementation focused on the description of activities undertaken by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and its partners in the context of new devolved legislative authorities and their management government-wide. This year's report focuses on communicating the achievements (or outcomes) of MDS activities.

Short-term outcomes are expected to be realized and reportable within five years, medium-term outcomes between five and 10 years, and long-term outcomes after 10 years.

During 2015 – 2016, the GNWT executed 67 actions towards the implementation of the MDS. Reporting is focused on outcomes achieved. Most of them are short-term outcomes. In this second year of MDS implementation, nearly 25 percent of activities have identifiable results. The description of these activities and their outcomes present the core of this report.

Key activities funded by the MDS in 2015 – 2016 contributed to several short-term outcomes of MDS goals. Overall, the funded activities have:

- increased Northwest Territories Geological Survey's (NTGS) capacity to make quality geoscience information publicly available;
- increased the use of mining and exploration incentive programs in the NWT;
- increased awareness of the NWT as a place to invest for mineral exploration and development;
- increased Aboriginal participation in the exploration and mineral resource sectors; and
- increased awareness among NWT businesses of mining procurement opportunities.

Non-funded key activities in 2015 – 2016 also contributed to identifiable short-term outcomes. Overall, the non-funded activities have:

- led to increased investments in NWT transportation infrastructure;
- contributed to improved regulatory clarity and process certainty;
- contributed to the finalization of land, resource and self-government agreements;
- supported the completion of land use planning processes;
- contributed to the development of an educated, trained and readily available northern workforce;
- ensured that the benefits of mineral development are accruing to Aboriginal communities and all NWT residents; and
- contributed to increased public awareness of the mineral exploration and mining industries, and related education opportunities.

Other MDS activities show the breadth and depth of the GNWT's commitment to promoting responsible mineral resource development in the NWT through cross-departmental and cross-stakeholder participation, and in partnership with Aboriginal governments and external partners. The additional MDS activities are varied in nature and involve numerous partners.

Going Forward

Responsible and sustainable mineral exploration and development are essential to ensuring lasting benefits for all NWT residents. The five-year MDS Implementation Plan identifies key activities based on MDS partner recommendations and other GNWT strategies that will support a balanced approach to mineral development in the NWT and address priorities established by the 17th and 18th Legislative Assemblies of the NWT.

This annual report focuses on key activities and achievements taken to address each goal in the MDS. Future annual reports will allow tracking of progress made and identify where improvements are needed.

It is key that the MDS maintains its relevancy and evolves with the changing needs of the NWT. Next steps will include a review of recommendations received from MDS partners on opportunities to improve implementation work and determine whether the MDS is having the intended impact.

Pam Strand, Director, Mineral Resources Division

Résumé

Le rapport annuel 2015-2016 sur la Stratégie d'exploitation des minéraux des Territoires du Nord-Ouest présente les résultats des activités réalisées en vue de concrétiser cette stratégie. Il s'agit du deuxième rapport d'activités à être publié. Il documente les efforts continus pour implanter la vision du gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (GTNO), soit une mise en valeur responsable et durable des ressources minérales de notre territoire.

La Stratégie d'exploitation des minéraux (SEM) est l'une des politiques clés du GTNO pour rehausser la confiance des investisseurs et du public à l'égard de l'exploitation des ressources. La mise en œuvre de la SEM soutient 22 engagements énoncés dans le mandat de la 18e Assemblée législative des Territoires du Nord-Ouest. Les avantages tirés de la mise en œuvre de la SEM et de l'exploitation de ressources non renouvelables en général permettent d'investir dans bon nombre de programmes et services jugés prioritaires par l'Assemblée législative.

La SEM est une stratégie étalée sur 10 à 15 ans. Notons que la collaboration et la participation des partenaires du GTNO sont essentielles à sa mise en œuvre. Depuis l'élaboration de la stratégie en 2013, plusieurs documents ont été publiés pour l'orienter ou en suivre les progrès (les pages liminaires de ces documents peuvent contenir un résumé en français) :

- NWT Mineral Development Strategy (2013)
- NWT Mineral Development Strategy Implementation Plan 2014-2015 (2014)
- Mise en œuvre de la Stratégie d'exploitation des minéraux des Territoires du Nord-Ouest – Rapport d'étape; du 1er avril 2014 au 31 mars 2015 (2015)
- NWT Mineral Development Strategy – GNWT Implementation Plan 2014-2019 (2016)
- NWT Mineral Development Strategy – Annual Report 2015-2016 (2017)
- 2015-2016 MDS Performance Measures Report (2017)

Dans le courant de l'année financière 2015-2016, le plan actuel de mise en œuvre a été revu et mis à jour grâce aux commentaires de quelque 55 responsables et partenaires. Cette révision, destinée à faciliter l'élaboration d'un plan quinquennal, a conduit à la publication d'un plan de mise en œuvre intitulé Northwest Territories Mineral Development Strategy – GNWT Implementation Plan 2014-2019.

Le contenu du présent document doit être considéré comme un rapport d'étape sur les résultats à ce jour, jusqu'à ce que des données provenant de sondages et des faits probants sur l'impact de la SEM (activités à court ou à moyen terme) soient disponibles. Pour bon nombre d'activités, il faudra plusieurs années avant de pouvoir se prononcer à leur sujet dans un rapport annuel. Les réalisations et résultats mesurables jusqu'ici en 2015-2016 y sont présentés. Les prochains rapports annuels devraient s'appuyer sur des données recueillies et organisées selon de nouvelles méthodes (p. ex. commentaires du grand public et sondages auprès de clients) qui devraient permettre de mieux évaluer les activités liées à la SEM.

Un plan de compte rendu est en place pour suivre la mise en œuvre de la SEM et les réalisations concrètes découlant de cette stratégie. Le « cadre de mesure de la performance » permet de recueillir de l'information de façon régulière et de constater dans quelle mesure la SEM et ses programmes connexes portent leurs fruits, à un point quelconque dans le temps.

C'est la division des ressources minérales du ministère de l'Industrie, du Tourisme et de l'Investissement (MITI) qui doit suivre la mise en œuvre de la SEM et de coordonner la publication annuelle d'un rapport sur cette stratégie.

La SEM en bref

Voici la vision définie pour la Stratégie d'exploitation des minéraux des TNO : réaliser le plein potentiel de nos abondantes ressources minérales, de façon responsable et durable, en vue de favoriser une prospérité permanente pour les résidents et les collectivités des Territoires du Nord-Ouest. Pour concrétiser cette vision et combler du mieux possible les besoins qui ont été cernés, la SEM repose sur les cinq objectifs à long terme ci-dessous – autrement dit, sur cinq piliers.

PILIERS:

Pilier 1 : Créer un avantage concurrentiel

- Rehausser l'intérêt envers les TNO en tant que destination de choix pour les entreprises qui veulent faire des investissements, de l'exploration et du développement responsables et viables dans le secteur minier.

Pilier 2 : Établir un contexte réglementaire amélioré pour les TNO

- Améliorer le « service à la clientèle »; rendre la réglementation plus claire et relever le niveau de certitude des divers processus.

Pilier 3 : Rehausser le niveau de mobilisation de la population autochtone ainsi que les capacités des collectivités

- Susciter une mobilisation efficace, faciliter le dialogue et soutenir le renforcement des capacités.

Pilier 4 : Favoriser la durabilité

- Assurer un legs durable pour les prochaines générations, notamment grâce à une saine intendance environnementale et à de bonnes mesures de protection de l'environnement.

Pilier 5 : Enrichir le perfectionnement de la main-d'œuvre et mieux sensibiliser le public

- Former une main-d'œuvre ténoise éduquée, qualifiée et disponible ainsi que sensibiliser le public à l'importance et à l'incidence de l'industrie de l'exploitation minière.

Réalisations en 2015 – 2016

Le présent rapport est différent du premier (*Mise en œuvre de la Stratégie d'exploitation des minéraux des Territoires du Nord-Ouest – Rapport d'étape; du 1er avril 2014 au 31 mars 2015*). Celui de l'année passée avait pour but de décrire les activités entreprises par le GTNO et ses partenaires, dans le contexte du transfert alors récent d'une série de responsabilités au gouvernement territorial – et de la nécessité, pour notre appareil gouvernemental, de prendre en charge de nouvelles responsabilités. Cette année, le rapport met l'accent sur la communication des réalisations découlant des activités menées dans le cadre de la SEM.

Selon toute vraisemblance, les résultats à court terme devraient avoir été atteints (et faire partie du compte rendu) d'ici les cinq prochaines années; les résultats à moyen terme pourront être précisés d'ici 5 à 10 ans et les résultats à long terme, dans une dizaine d'années.

En 2015-2016, le GTNO a mis en branle 67 activités liées à la mise en œuvre de la SEM. Le rapport de cette année porte principalement sur les résultats à ce jour des nombreuses initiatives mises de l'avant. Dans la plupart des cas, il s'agit de résultats préliminaires. Au cours de la deuxième année de mise en œuvre de la SEM, près du quart des activités ont mené à des résultats identifiables. La description et les résultats de ces activités représentent l'essentiel des pages qui suivent.

Quelques activités financées dans le cadre de la SEM en 2015-2016 ont engendré des résultats à court terme. Dans l'ensemble, ces activités ont généré les bénéfices suivants :

- Rehaussement des capacités de la Commission géologique des TNO qui a pu ainsi publier encore plus d'information géoscientifique de qualité
- Plus grand recours aux programmes d'encouragement aux activités d'exploration et d'exploitation minières aux TNO
- Hausse de la notoriété des TNO à titre d'endroit propice aux investissements dans l'exploration et l'exploitation de ressources minérales
- Plus grande participation des groupes autochtones aux activités d'exploration et d'exploitation des ressources minérales
- Plus grande connaissance des possibilités d'approvisionnement des sociétés minières parmi les dirigeants d'entreprises ténoises.

D'autres activités non financées dans le cadre de la SEM ont mené aux résultats à court terme suivants :

- Hausse des investissements dans les infrastructures de transport aux TNO
- Plus grande clarté de la réglementation et plus grande fiabilité des processus
- Parachèvement d'accords sur les terres, les ressources et l'autonomie gouvernementale
- Élaboration de processus pour la planification de l'aménagement des terres
- Développement d'une main-d'œuvre ténoise bien formée et employable
- Prise de conscience des avantages des activités minières pour les collectivités autochtones, mais aussi pour l'ensemble des résidents des TNO
- Meilleure compréhension, par la population, des entreprises d'exploration et d'exploitation des minéraux, et des possibilités de formation qui en découlent.

D'autres activités liées à la SEM illustrent l'engagement réel du GTNO à promouvoir un développement responsable des ressources minérales du territoire. Citons par exemple la collaboration interministérielle et la collaboration entre les diverses parties intéressées, sans oublier les partenariats avec les gouvernements autochtones et autres partenaires extérieurs. Les autres activités liées à la SEM varient par leur nature et mettent en jeu plusieurs partenaires.

L'avenir

Des activités d'exploration et d'exploitation des ressources minérales que l'on souhaite responsables et viables seront essentielles pour s'assurer d'obtenir des avantages durables pour toute la population ténoise. Le plan de mise en œuvre quinquennal précise les initiatives clés, déterminées en fonction des recommandations formulées par nos partenaires et en fonction d'autres stratégies du GTNO. Toutes ces idées sauront soutenir une approche équilibrée pour l'exploitation des minéraux aux TNO, et permettront de s'attaquer aux priorités définies par les 17e et 18e Assemblées législative des TNO.

Ce rapport annuel se concentre sur les principales activités et réalisations associées à chaque objectif de la SEM. Dans les prochains rapports annuels, nous entendons présenter un suivi des progrès réalisés et cerner les points à améliorer.

Il est essentiel que la Stratégie d'exploitation des minéraux des TNO conserve sa pertinence et évolue en fonction des besoins changeants de notre territoire. Parmi les étapes à venir, mentionnons l'examen des recommandations reçues de nos partenaires sur la mise en œuvre. Il y aura lieu aussi de déterminer si, jusqu'ici, la SEM produit les effets voulus.

List of Acronyms

CanNor	Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
CSCR	Client Service and Community Relations, Industry, Tourism and Investment
DAAIR	Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, GNWT
DOT	Department of Transportation, GNWT
ECE	Department of Education, Culture and Employment, GNWT
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIP	Exploration Incentive Program
ENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT
EOS	Economic Opportunities Strategy
FIN	Department of Finance, GNWT
GIS	Geographic Information System
GNWT	Government of the Northwest Territories
IEA	Investment and Economic Analysis, Industry, Tourism and Investment
ITI	Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, GNWT
II	Industrial Initiatives, Industry, Tourism and Investment
Lands	Department of Lands, GNWT
LUSF	Land Use and Sustainability Framework
M	Million
NWT MDS	Mineral Development Strategy
MiHR	Mining Industry Human Resources Council
MIAB	Mining Industry Advisory Board
MIP	Mining Incentive Program
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRD	Mineral Resources Division, Industry, Tourism and Investment
MRO	Mining Recorder's Office, Industry, Tourism and Investment
NPMO	Northern Projects Management Office
NTGS	Northwest Territories Geological Survey
PDAC	Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada – International Convention, Trade Show & Investors Exchange
PWS	Department of Public Works and Services, GNWT
SEA	Socio-Economic Agreement
SEED	Support for Entrepreneurs and Economic Development

List of Tables, Figures and Maps

Introduction

- **MAP:** Map shows roads, communities, operating mines, advanced exploration projects, NTGS 2015 – 16 research locations

Background

- **Graphic:** representation of the MDS vision, principles, pillars, 24 goals with numbers

Funded Activities

- **Call-out/text box:** MDS Funding Has Leveraged Other Resources
- **Call-out/text box:** increased capacity
- **Figure 1:** The MIP and EIP Programs Were Over-Subscribed in 2015 – 2016
- **Call-out/text box:** promotion has increased awareness
- **Figure 2:** Aboriginal Community Participation at Workshops Has Increased
- **Figure 3:** Workshops are Increasing the Awareness of Regional Mineral Development Strategies
- **Call-out/text box:** support has increased awareness among businesses
- **Table 1:** MDS Budget for 2015 – 2016

Non-Funded Activities:

- **Call-out/text box:** MDS Activities Have Led to Increased Investments in NWT Transportation Infrastructure
- **Figure 4:** There is a High Demand for Mining and Exploration Training
- **Figure 5:** The Benefits of Mineral Development Are Accruing to Aboriginal Communities and All NWT Residents (in Millions of $)
- **Call-out/text box:** Surface Rights Board
- **Call-out/text box:** Agreements toward land claim and self-government
- **Call-out/text box:** Land use planning
- **Call-out/text box:** MTS contribution to educating workforce

1. Introduction

The *MDS – Annual Report for 2015 – 2016* (Annual Report) presents the results of activities carried out in relation to the Northwest Territories Mineral Development Strategy (MDS). It is the second MDS annual report and documents the continuing realization of the vision of responsible and sustainable mineral resource development in the NWT.

This Annual Report details the activities undertaken by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) lead departments and external partners in response to the *MDS – GNWT Implementation Plan 2014 – 2019* (Implementation Plan). The GNWT departments that are committed to the implementation of the MDS include Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI), Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) and Transportation (DOT). Support is provided through ongoing activities by the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), Health and Social Services (HSS), Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations (DAAIR), Public Works and Services (PWS), and Lands. Partners include the Mine Training Society (MTS), the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines and the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor).

This year's reporting is different from the first *MDS Implementation Progress Report 2014 – 2015*. The first progress report on MDS implementation focused on the description of activities undertaken by the GNWT and its partners in the context of new authorities devolved from the federal government and their management government-wide. This year's report focuses on highlighting the achievements (or outcomes) that resulted from 2015 – 2016 MDS activities.

Based on a Performance Measurement Framework in which MDS partners developed a measure for each of their activities, this Annual Report highlights funded, non-funded and other activities and their impacts. The MDS Implementation Plan and MDS Performance Measurement Framework were each developed in 2015 – 2016 through extensive meetings with MDS partners. Both documents serve to guide MDS implementation and reporting going forward. Standardized templates facilitated the collection of reporting requirements and allowed structured analysis of the content provided. Reporting on the outputs and outcomes of all MDS activities listed in the Implementation Plan will be made available publicly in the separate *Performance Measurement Report 2015 – 2016*.

During 2015 – 2016, the GNWT executed 67 actions that are being monitored on how well they contribute to the achievement of the five pillars and 24 goals of the MDS. Nearly 25 percent of all activities have led to measurable achievements. A description of these activities and their outcomes comprise the core of this report.

Mineral Exploration, Mines and Funded Projects in the NWT, 2015 – 2016

This Annual Report is structured into five chapters.

Chapter One (this chapter) provides an introduction.

Chapter Two includes a brief history and background of the MDS.

Chapter Three describes the activities that were undertaken and completed during the 2015 – 2016 fiscal year, and the products delivered. Based on whether activities received specific budgeted MDS funding, this report makes the distinction between funded, non-funded and other activities. The first part of each activity provides a brief description of what was undertaken in 2015 – 2016; the second part describes the achievements (or outcomes) that were realized.

Chapter Four outlines how the MDS supports the various commitments of the 18th Legislative Assembly of the NWT.

Chapter Five shares how the GNWT will continue monitoring the implementation of the MDS.

The MDS Performance Measurement Framework includes three types of outcomes: short-term, medium-term and long-term. Short-term outcomes are those expected to be realized and reportable within five years; medium-term outcomes between five and 10 years, and long-term outcomes after 10 years.

Reporting in this document is focused on outcomes achieved and uses the best-available evidence for work carried out during 2015 – 2016. Understandably, most of the outcomes that are reported here are short-term in nature. Results for medium-term and long-term outcomes are not yet measureable; those results will be reported in later years.

Future annual reports will use new data collection and reporting methods (such as public feedback and client surveys) to measure the outcomes of MDS activities. This year's report should be considered as interim reporting on outcomes until data from survey results and impact evidence for short and medium-term activities becomes available.

2. Background

In accordance with the 17th Legislative Assembly's priority to strengthen and diversify the NWT economy by "developing a socially responsible and environmentally sustainable economic development and mining strategy", ITI developed the NWT Economic Opportunities Strategy (EOS) and the MDS. Work on the MDS commenced with the release of a discussion paper that outlined the key issues important to the development of a GNWT mineral strategy.

The development of the MDS was based on input received from across the NWT. A Stakeholder Engagement Panel held 40 meetings and met with industry representatives, Aboriginal governments, organizations and businesses, non-governmental organizations, and Members of the Legislative Assembly. Results were published in the Pathways to Mineral Development report in April 2013, and recommendations from this report assisted in laying the foundation for the MDS.

The MDS was published in 2013 and the Northwest Territories Mineral Development Strategy GNWT Implementation Plan 2014 – 2015 released in 2014. The MDS Progress Report 2014 – 2015 provided the context of new authorities and their management government-wide in October 2016.

The Mineral Resources Division (MRD) of ITI is responsible for monitoring implementation and coordinating annual reporting on the MDS. In 2015 – 2016, the original implementation plan was reviewed and updated to create a five-year plan for 2014 – 2019.

Based on the Implementation Plan, a Performance Measurement Framework was also established to regularly collect information for monitoring and annual reporting. Performance measures, quantitative or qualitative in nature, come from a variety of data sources including administrative data (i.e. the program files of a division or department), financial information, stakeholder feedback (such as surveys), or other sources such as GNWT Bureau of Statistics or Government of Canada data. A total of 43 output measures, 29 short-term outcome measures, 27 medium-term outcome measures and 4 long-term outcome measures are outlined in the MDS Performance Measurement Framework.

MDS – Vision, Guiding Principles, Goals

The MDS is an inclusive Strategy that is integral to the broader effort to build a sustainable NWT economy. The Strategy is expected to guide this government in taking a balanced approach for mineral development that will protect the environment, respect Aboriginal/Indigenous cultures and lifestyles, and leave residents with a lasting and positive legacy. Accordingly, the Strategy describes the broad actions necessary to attract investment for exploration and mining, support more northern jobs and business, support establishment of a new regulatory environment for the NWT, strengthen Aboriginal engagement and community capacity, and encourage and promote environmental stewardship and effective land use planning.

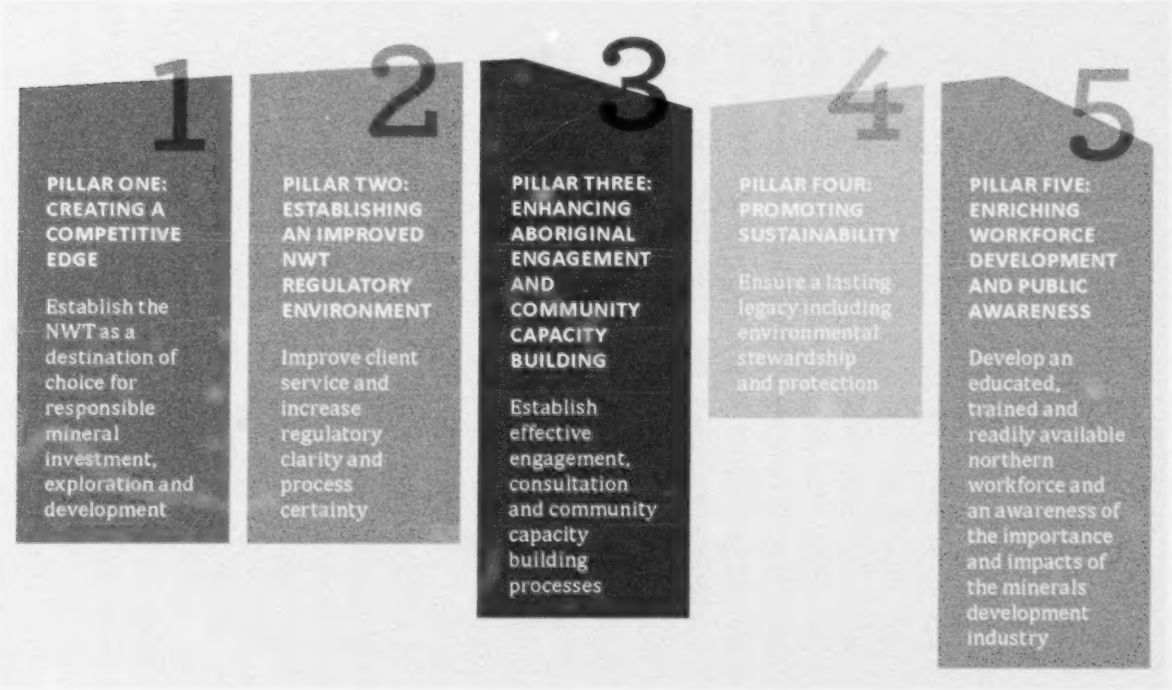
Vision: The vision of the MDS is to realize, responsibly and sustainably, the full potential of our rich mineral resources and use it to support ongoing prosperity for NWT residents and communities.

Guiding Principles:

- Mineral development should provide a legacy of positive benefits for NWT residents.
- The environment must be considered and respected.
- Clear, transparent and certain regulation guides responsible, sustainable mineral development.
- The rights and traditions of Aboriginal people should be respected.
- Cooperation and partnerships are essential to achieve sustainable mineral development.
- The NWT is a destination of choice for responsible and sustainable mineral development, exploration and development.

To realize the vision for mineral development, and to respond to identified needs the Strategy is based on five key pillars:

THE MDS (MDS) IS BASED ON FIVE PILLARS


1
PILLAR ONE: CREATING A COMPETITIVE EDGE
Establish the NWT as a destination of choice for responsible mineral investment, exploration and development
2
PILLAR TWO: ESTABLISHING AN IMPROVED NWT REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT
Improve client service and increase regulatory clarity and process certainty
3
PILLAR THREE: ENHANCING ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING
Establish effective engagement, consultation and community capacity building processes
4
PILLAR FOUR: PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY
Ensure a lasting legacy including environmental stewardship and protection
5
PILLAR FIVE: ENRICHING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC AWARENESS
Develop an educated, trained and readily available northern workforce and an awareness of the importance and impacts of the minerals development industry

Pillar	Goal
PILLAR ONE: Creating a Competitive Edge **Establish the NWT as a destination of choice for responsible mineral investment, exploration and development** 1	1.1 World-class geoscience information is publicly available and contributes to enhancing exploration and development activity in the NWT 1.2 Expenditures in grassroots exploration activities in the NWT increase yearly and the NWT increases its share of total Canadian exploration investment 1.3 Investment in infrastructure and energy development in the NWT improves access to mineral potential 1.4 Investors in North America and globally see the NWT as an attractive place to invest in mineral development
PILLAR TWO: Establishing an Improved NWT Regulatory Environment **Improve client service and increase regulatory clarity and process certainty** 2	2.1 Implement incentive programs for prospectors and exploration businesses 2.2 Improve client services and increasingly responsive decision-making related to NWT regulatory processes 2.3 Increased cooperative initiatives with NPMO 2.4 All stakeholders are knowledgeable about the regulatory processes that the mining sector is subject to

Pillar	Goal
PILLAR THREE: **Enhancing Aboriginal Engagement and Community Capacity Building** **Establish effective engagement, consultation and community capacity building processes** 3	3.1 Aboriginal governments are better positioned to effectively participate in all stages of the mineral development process in the NWT 3.2 Communities are able to effectively participate in regulatory processes 3.3 Communities are able to benefit from opportunities as a result of mineral exploration and development
PILLAR FOUR: **Promoting Sustainability** **Ensure a lasting legacy including environmental stewardship and protection** 4	4.1 Land use planning processes (including LUSF, land use plans and the Protected Areas Strategy) are completed and implemented in the NWT 4.2 Effective mine reclamation planning, execution, inspections and monitoring are adopted 4.3 Responsible and sustainable development through sound environmental practice is conducted through all phases of exploration and development which is incorporated into mineral development investment decisions 4.4 The impacts of development are adequately mitigated and carefully monitored 4.5 The Socio-Economic Agreement process is further improved upon 4.6 Businesses are better equipped to respond to opportunities created by sustainable mineral development in the NWT 4.7 Benefits of mineral development accrue to Aboriginal communities and all NW[illegible] residents
PILLAR FIVE: **Enriching Workforce Development and Public Awareness** **Develop an educated, trained and readily available northern workforce and an awareness of the importance and impacts of the minerals development industry** 5	5.1 Enable NWT residents to benefit from employment opportunities in the mineral resource development sector by decreasing gaps between mining hiring requirements and available NWT talent forecast 5.2 Develop an educated, skilled and trained northern workforce that meets the mining sector's current and future needs 5.3 Improve student achievement, increase high school graduation rates 5.4 Develop and implement training and certification standards for the mining sector 5.5 Increase Northerners' understanding of the mining industry and the associated educational requirements, training opportunities and employment possibilities 5.6 Work with the mineral development sector to promote, develop and deliver educational and career related programs to students and other interested Northerners

3. Activities and Achievements 2015 – 2016

This chapter presents the activities as they were carried out by the GNWT's respective lead departments during 2015 – 2016. Achievements (or outcomes) are described where results are available. In section 3.1 we report on the activities that received specified funding under the MDS; section 3.2 reports on non-funded activities; and 3.3 on other MDS activities.

During 2015 – 2016, MDS partners worked on 67 implementation actions in total. This report will speak to 13 funded activities and 10 non-funded activities. The remaining activities are reported as "other activities".

3.1 Funded Activities

During 2015 – 2016, a total of 13 activities received funding under the MDS budget. The GNWT Implementation Plan 2014 – 2019 identifies how each of the funded activities contributes to the achievements of the 24 goals and five pillars of the MDS. These 13 funded activities support Goals 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 3.2, 3.3, 4.6, 5.2 and 5.3.

RESEARCH AT THE NTGS

NTGS Activity: Publicly available geoscience research results (Goal 1.1) PILLAR ONE

In 2015 – 16, the Northwest Territories Geological Survey (NTGS) received MDS funding in order to undertake targeted research programs, improve web-based geoscience information availability and make geoscience information of the NWT publicly available. Specifically, additional contractors were engaged, which enabled the project to move forward on multiple fronts – including new web-based data input/output applications that were created to collect, search and disseminate NTGS's Core Datasets.

A Surficial Geologist and a Geophysicist were hired in 2014 – 2015 to fill significant program gaps.[1] The staff and resources provided by MDS funding were key components in attracting and leveraging Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) funding for the Slave Geological Province Surficial Materials and Permafrost Program, the largest applied mineral exploration research program ever done in Canada's Territories.

Achievement: Researchers specialised on surficial and geophysical resources assisted in leveraging $3M of federal funding received from CanNor and in kind funding.

MDS research funds enhanced the ability to attract partner organizations and researchers to collaborate on NWT surficial geological problems. NTGS was able to provide additional support to seven graduate student research projects at six Canadian universities. The research results enhance the knowledge of NWT geology and help answer economic geology questions pertinent to mineral exploration in the NWT.

NTGS activities have leverage additional funding investments in the NWT:

- $3M in CanNor funding
- $786,000 in additional exploration expenditures by companies and prospectors

NTGS Activity: Conduct Research (Goal 1.1)

MDS resources allowed geochemical sampling in the Mackenzie Mountains (as helicopter supported geochemical sampling is otherwise outside of the NTGS research budget). Additionally, MDS resources allowed for the compilation and upgrading of existing public geophysical datasets, as well as contributed towards the collection of new geophysical data in high priority areas. MDS resources helped complete the compilation for the bedrock maps of the Thornton and Thomsen River areas.

Achievement: The availability of results from geophysical and geochemical research furthers the knowledge of the NWT's mineral resource potential, and directly contributes to the development of highly qualified northern researchers. For example, geochemical sampling in the Mackenzie Mountains has suggested potential for Iron Oxide Copper-Gold style of mineralization not previously considered. Student theses have provided additional information to guide mineral exploration in the mountains.

MDS funding for promotion has increased the awareness of the NWT as a place to invest for mineral exploration and development.

Supported seven graduate student research projects at six Canadian universities. The research results enhance the knowledge of NWT geology.

The new series of maps (at a scale of 1:1,000,000) are an important contribution to the body of materials used to inform decision making processes on opportunities for mineral resource development in these regions.

NTGS Activity: Regional Maps (Goal 1.1)

In 2015 – 2016, the NTGS launched a new series of geological regional maps for NWT Settlement Regions and Areas. The maps compile details of the geology at a scale of 1:1,000,000 of the Gwich'in and Sahtu Settlement Areas, the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and the Dehcho Area. Maps for the Wek'èezhìi Resource Management Area (Tłı̨chǫ) and the Akaitcho Region are in progress.

Achievement: By using a concise format for the new map series, a large amount of scientific information is being made instantly available and is easily accessible. The maps are an important contribution to the body of materials used to inform decision making processes on opportunities for mineral resource development in these regions.

NTGS Activity: Increasing Web Access (Goal 1.1)

Downloads of publicly available geoscience information from the NTGS website indicate the uptake of information. In 2015 – 2016, about eight Terabytes of NTGS data in the form of reports and/or maps were downloaded by users from the website. This is a similar result compared to 2014 – 2015.

Achievement: Feedback and inquiries provide information on the access to and the use of publicly available information on the website. For example, four mineral exploration companies have made follow up inquiries regarding results published from MDS funded activities. This is an indication not only of uptake of information but also that the type of information leads to creating interest in the NWT's mineral potential.

Overall, these funded activities have increased NTGS capacity to make quality geoscience information publicly available.

[1] MDS funding for the two positions is confirmed until March 31st 2019.

INCENTIVE PROGRAMS FOR PROSPECTORS AND EXPLORERS

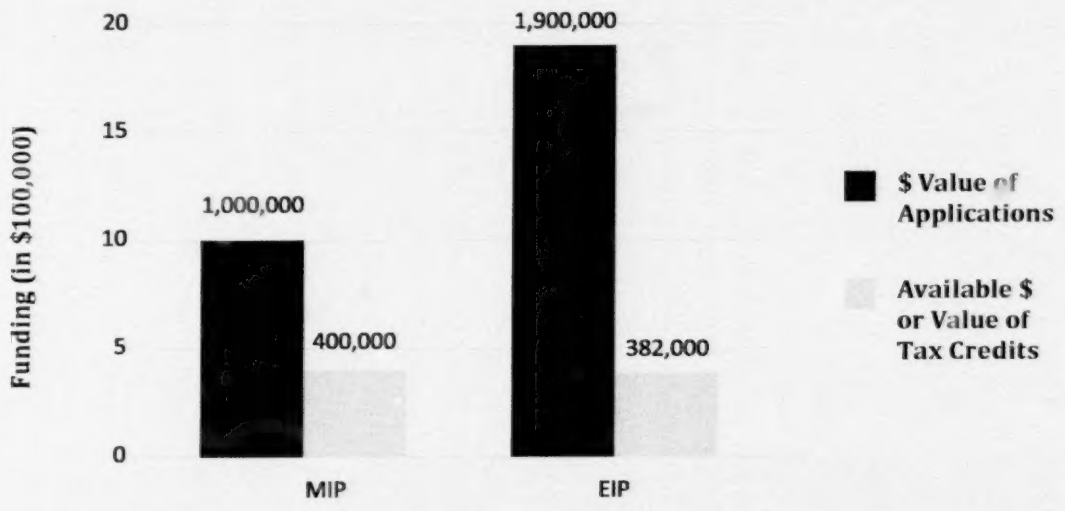
The MDS supports two incentive programs for prospectors and explorers, the Mining Incentive Program (MIP) and the Exploration Incentive Program (EIP). Both programs target early and advanced exploration activities and are intended to stimulate and sustain mineral exploration activities throughout the NWT. Exploration is vital to a healthy, sustained, and productive mining industry and incentive programs reduce the risk associated with grass roots mineral exploration.

NTGS Activity: Implement the MIP (Goal 1.2) PILLAR ONE

The MIP, launched in 2014, has confirmed funding until 2020 – 2021. It is a merit-based program providing funding to prospectors and exploration companies who propose new exploration projects or are already carrying out NWT mineral exploration work.

In 2015 – 2016, the MIP was oversubscribed by a ratio of 2.65 to 1 (i.e. just over $1M in applications for $400,000 of funding). The MIP received 12 corporate and nine prospector funding applications for a total request of $1,060,873. In both years, 2014 – 2015 and 2015 – 2016, projects were funded in three regions of the NWT. Mineral targets for projects include gold, diamonds, silver, lead, tungsten, and zinc.

FIGURE 1: THE MIP AND EIP PROGRAMS WERE OVER-SUBSCRIBED IN 2015 – 2016



Note: the EIP doesn't award funding; rather, the value of the work submitted qualifies for a 150 percent tax credit.

Achievement: Approximately $400,000 awarded under the MIP leveraged close to $786,000 in additional exploration spending by companies and prospectors representing an immediate multiplier of 2.7 to 1 on the public expenditures. This multiplier will only increase as 2015 – 2016 results are followed up in subsequent years. Companies reported significant new drilled and sampled intersections. Two MIP supported prospectors staked, worked on and sold their claim to a junior mineral exploration company. Two MIP supported junior mineral exploration companies reported significant mineralized intersections.

Mining Recorder's Office Activity: Implement the EIP (Goal 1.2)

The EIP was launched in 2015 for application over two years; included in this report are the outcomes of the first months of implementation. The EIP is an incentive program based on establishing work credits that are calculated on the value of exploration activities conducted by recorded mineral claim holders in the NWT. Under the *Mining Regulations*, holders of recorded mineral claims in the NWT must complete work or submit cash-in-lieu to keep a claim active. Reported exploration work is assessed and approved by the GNWT Mining Recorders Office (MRO). The credit or value of this exploration work was increased by 150 percent in the recording system to provide a temporary incentive assisting the mineral exploration industry to maintain their mineral tenure through financially challenging times.

In 2015 – 2016, of all active and suspended claims (a total of 1,827 claims), 5.4 percent (or 98 claims) had partial or full EIP credits applied to them. Eight companies and four individual prospectors received extra work credits for exploration work activities carried out on their claim properties.

Achievement: A total of $1.9M in exploration work was submitted under the EIP with approximately $763,000 qualifying for the 150 percent credit. This resulted in a total of roughly $382,000 of work credits applied to claims in 2015 – 2016.[2]

Overall, these funded activities indicated an increase in the use of mining and exploration incentive programs in the NWT.

PROMOTING NWT'S MINERAL RESOURCE POTENTIAL

Promotion and Marketing Activity: Promote the NWT to Investors (Goal 1.4)

In November 2014, a two-person Promotion and Marketing unit based in ITI's Hay River office began promoting and encouraging investment in NWT resource development. The unit identifies, plans, implements and supports initiatives across both the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Divisions intended to increase awareness, knowledge and understanding of the world-class resource potential of the NWT with a view to attracting private sector investment.

The "Unlocking our Potential" brand was created to establish an attractive, unified and clearly distinguishable look and feel for ITI's efforts to attract investment. The "Unlocking our Potential" wordmark was unveiled in January 2015 and since then the branding has expanded to include promotional and marketing materials, products and supporting messaging. The brand is an integral part of a broader strategic approach to increase the scope, presence and profile for the NWT at industry events and other activities in the minerals and petroleum sectors.

During 2015 – 2016, the Promotion and Marketing unit planned and coordinated a total of 13 conferences, trade shows and special events. The unit is responsible for the visibility of GNWT at key exploration and mining industry events via tradeshow booths. Activities are focused on reaching four target audiences: investors and financiers; mining and exploration companies; prospectors; and NWT Aboriginal governments, communities and residents. Opportunities for exposure are determined by understanding if and how conferences and trade shows provide the relevant target market reach, offer a good cost-benefit ratio for trade show participation and effective opportunities to profile the NWT at the event. Additional factors are the timing and relation to other established events and whether the conference program offers learning and development opportunities.

[2] This amount will likely increase as the MRO receives final reports from prospectors and exploration companies. The results presented here are based on the best available evidence as of the writing of this report.

Achievement: MDS funding for promotion has increased the awareness of the NWT as a place to invest for mineral exploration and development. A baseline of brand recognition for "Unlocking Our Potential" among NWT residents was established in 2015 – 2016. In March 2015, a third-party public opinion survey was conducted with over 500 residents by telephone. Just over half of all participants were aware of the brand.

Efforts to measure the level of awareness of the "Unlocking Our Potential" brand were undertaken with a pilot survey distributed at the tradeshow booths in 2015 – 2016. However, the pilot survey did not produce enough data required to draw accurate conclusions because of a low response rate. The survey has since been revised and different delivery methods (such as using digital questions on an Ipad) and incentives to increase response rates are being considered for 2016 – 2017.

MDS funding for promotion has increased the awareness of the NWT as a place to invest for mineral exploration and development.

A baseline of brand recognition for "Unlocking Our Potential" among NWT residents was established in 2015 – 2016 (i.e. just over half of participants were aware)

ENSURE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE HAVE THE TOOLS TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE NWT AND CANADIAN ECONOMIES

CSCR Activity: Increase Aboriginal Participation (Goals 3.2 and 3.3) PILLAR THREE

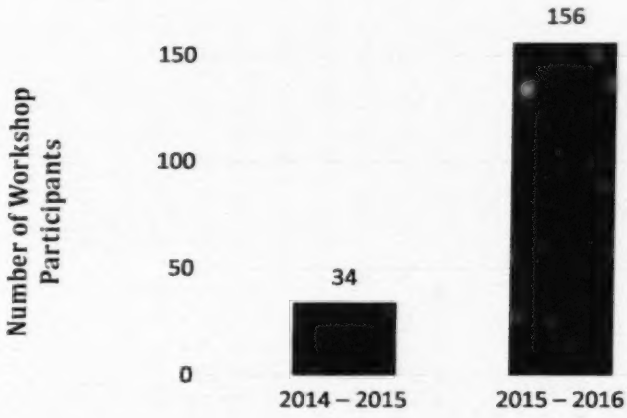
One of the goals of the MDS is to support Aboriginal capacity building and participation in the exploration and mineral resource sectors. The Client Service and Community Relations (CSCR) unit supports several divisions within ITI, leads engagement activities between industry clients and communities, and facilitates educational and training opportunities.

In 2015 – 2016, CSCR provided financial support to Aboriginal communities and governments, enabling 47 Aboriginal individuals from the NWT to attend key industry networking events as delegates, presenters, panel speakers and exhibitors. Participants took advantage of educational and training opportunities and participated in workshops offered during the events.

CSCR funding enabled Aboriginal participation from the NWT in the three key Canadian events for the mineral exploration and mining industries: the 2015 Yellowknife Geoscience Forum, the 2016 Mineral Exploration Roundup Conference and the 2016 Prospectors and Developers Association (PDAC) Convention. Additionally, funding contributions were provided for participation in educational and training opportunities such as the NTGS-led Prospecting 101 course and the PDAC Mining Matters course delivered in the Sahtu Region.

In November 2015, CSCR supported MRD in the delivery of the first Regional Mineral Development Strategy Workshop. This involved bringing together 30 attendees representative of each of the NWT's regions and 26 organizations. The workshop, hosted in Yellowknife, provided information on mineral policies, regional geology and mineral resource potential so that Aboriginal organizations could take steps towards a Regional Mineral Strategy for their Settlement regions and areas.

FIGURE 2: ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AT WORKSHOPS HAS INCREASED



Additionally, CSCR provided support to the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) for the engagement of a professional geoscience consulting firm to undertake geological research and compile a technical report detailing the history of mineral showings in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR). This will further IRC understanding of the geology and exploration history of the ISR and highlight areas of possible economic potential.

For the first time, an NWT Settlement Region hosted a trade show booth at the 2016 Mineral Exploration Roundup. This annual international exploration conference attracted approximately 6,000 delegates and provided a good opportunity for an inaugural tradeshow booth for the Sahtu. Representatives from each of the Sahtu Land Corporations provided information on the mineral potential and exploration activities in the Sahtu Region. In total, ten delegates from two Settlement Regions attended the 2016 Mineral Exploration Roundup.

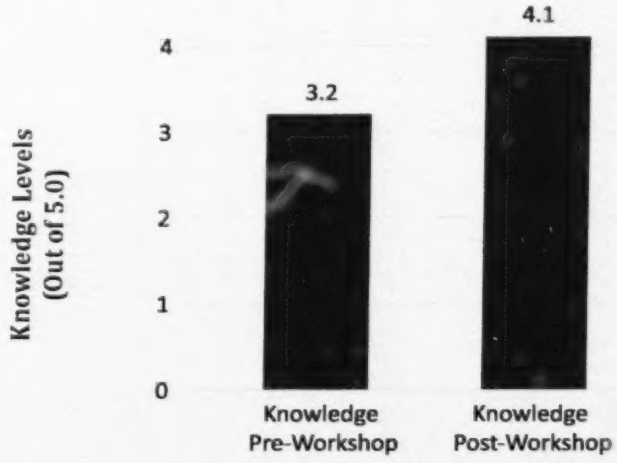
Also for the first time, NWT Aboriginal regional participation was visible with five participants attending the 2016 PDAC Convention. Panel speakers from Sahtu, ISR and Tłı̨cho organizations spoke at the "Unlocking our Potential: Spotlight on the Northwest Territories" event and discussed the exploration and mineral potential of their region and their plans for a Regional Mineral Development Strategy.

Achievement: MDS funding has enhanced Aboriginal community participation in the exploration and mineral resource sectors. Support for Aboriginal community members to attend workshops, conferences, and other networking and educational events increased significantly in 2015 – 2016. Participation increased from 34 individuals supported in 2014 – 2015 to 156 in 2015 – 2016.

One story of success, in particular, helps to demonstrate how these programs and services can be used progressively. An individual showed initiative and inquired about exploration and how to determine mineral potential. He began by participating in one of the Introduction to Prospecting courses. Then, he inquired about learning more about Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and its use in understanding regional geology. He initiated community training in GIS and was a successful applicant for funds under the Prospector Grubstake Program, a program under the GNWT's Support for Entrepreneurs and Economic Development (SEED) funding envelope. He then applied his prospecting knowledge and was a successful applicant in receiving funds through the MIP.

The geoscience research completed within the ISR lays the foundation for marketing potential mineral opportunities in the region. The information compiled in the research report improves the capability of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation/Inuvialuit Development Corporation to support exploration and development and to consider steps toward a possible regional strategy for mineral development.

FIGURE 3: WORKSHOPS ARE INCREASING THE AWARENESS OF REGIONAL MINERAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES



Participants at the 2015 Regional Mineral Development Strategy Workshop rated the overall workshop favourably (i.e. "good"). This included the workshop's relevance to participants' settlement regions, the usefulness of the information provided, and the workshop components (e.g. the quality, length and sequence of the presentations; the value of the breakout sessions; and the overall length of the workshop).

Additionally, there was an important increase in participants' knowledge about Regional Mineral Development Strategies as a result of the workshop – which rose from "neutral" before the workshop to "good" afterwards. Strong Aboriginal interest in the 2015 workshop resulted in a region-specific workshop being held in the Dehcho Region in July of 2016.

HELP LOCAL BUSINESSES PARTICIPATE IN OPPORTUNITIES COMING FROM MINERAL EXPLORATION AND MINE DEVELOPMENT

IEA Activity: Support Business Development (Goal 4.6) PILLAR FOUR

In 2015 – 2016, a Business Development Services Advisor position was staffed within the Investment and Economic Analysis (IEA) Division of ITI. The position is located in Yellowknife and aids businesses across all NWT regions to seek and explore potential development opportunities and expand their business opportunities.

The Advisor attended mining events in order to network with northern businesses interested in doing work with the mines and to directly provide information on ITI's programs and services. The events attended in 2015 included the Mining The Future Conference; the 2015 Yellowknife Geoscience Forum; and a business networking breakfast sponsored by De Beers

MDS funding has increased awareness among NWT businesses of mining procurement opportunities.

There is now greater awareness among the three NWT diamond mine companies of the programs and services that ITI provides to NWT businesses.

The GNWT was able to learn the key challenges that mining companies face with northern contracting (e.g. providing support for businesses to obtain their required safety certifications to meet mining company's standards).

Achievement: MDS funding has increased awareness among NWT businesses of mining procurement opportunities. The Business Development Services Advisor also increased awareness among the three NWT diamond mines to programs and services that ITI provides to NWT businesses. Additionally, the Advisor was able to learn of challenges that mining companies face with northern contracting and how government could address those obstacles – such as providing support for businesses to obtain their required safety certifications to meet mining company's standards.

ENSURE CAREER CHOICES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES ARE KNOWN AND AVAILABLE

ECE and MTS Activities: Increase Awareness of Career Choices among NWT College Students (Goals 5.2, 5.3, 5.6)

The MDS supports career development awareness for students, employers, communities and governments through a variety of activities.

A Geoscience Career Liaison Coordinator was proposed for the regional ECE office in Inuvik. The position was designed to enhance cooperative and collaborative relationships between GNWT departments, industry, educational institutions and communities. However, after difficulties in staffing the position, further competitions were put on hold, and the position was eventually cancelled.

The Geoscience Field Assistant Training Program had been developed in 2013 – 2014 through a partnership between ECE, the NTGS and Aurora College. The program is designed to allow participants to understand the role and responsibilities of a Geoscience Field Assistant and the working conditions associated with the position. The program is comprised of seven modules, some of which are classroom based, while others are field based. Students will learn basic geological concepts and principles, the processes and reasons for gathering geoscience samples, purpose and history of prospecting, the importance of prospecting to the exploration process, and the common types of mineral exploration in the NWT, claim staking and mineral rights, and the phases and life cycles of mineral exploration programs and mining operations.

In 2015 – 2016, the program was not delivered due to reduced mineral exploration activities and fewer employment opportunities available in the NWT. The Geoscience Field Assistant Training Program is scheduled to be delivered via the Mine Training Society (MTS) in fiscal 2018 – 2019.

The Surface Mining Training Program curriculum has been completed. The 12-week (360 hour) program will provide participants with entry-level knowledge, skills and attitudes outlined in the Mining Industry Human Resources Council (MIHR) National Occupational Standards for Surface Miners. In this practical, hands-on program, students will be introduced to surface mining operations and mine equipment operation in northern, cold-weather environments, using both mining equipment

and simulators. The course content focuses on surface mining operations, mine safety and mobile mine equipment operation. Course delivery will have both a classroom based and practical component including learning on simulators and at the Aurora College open pit training facility. Participants must be a minimum 18 years of age prior to commencement of the training program, and have completed the Aurora College's Introduction to the Mining Industry Program.

First delivery of the program by the MTS is anticipated in May 2017. Twelve trainees will be selected, and traineeships for all 12 have already been identified (including written commitments from employers for those trainee positions).

Summary of Funded Activities

In summary, the funded activities in 2015 – 2016 have contributed to several short-term outcomes of the MDS. Overall, the funded activities have: increased NTGS's capacity to make quality geoscience information publicly available; increased the use of mining and exploration incentive programs in the NWT; increased the wareness of the NWT as a place to invest for mineral exploration and development; enhanced Aboriginal community participation in the exploration and mineral resource sectors; and increased awareness among NWT businesses of mining procurement opportunities.

TABLE 1: MDS FUNDING FOR 2015 – 2016

BUDGET 2015 – 2016	
FUNDED ACTIVITIES	**2015 – 2016 BUDGET**
Support to Geoscience	650, 000
Mining Incentive Program	400, 000
Promotion and Marketing	140, 000
Support Aboriginal Participation	100, 000
Business Coordination	149, 000
Total for ITI	**1, 439, 000**
Geoscience Career Liaison Coordinator (ECE)	246, 000*
Geoscience Field Assistant Training Program (ECE)	54, 000**
Total for ECE	**300, 000**
GNWT Total	**1, 739, 000**

* The position was never staffed and extension of funding was not approved by the Financial Management Board.

** The training program was designed, but not implemented.

3.2 Non-Funded Key Activities

Ten non-funded key activities are highlighted in this report because they contribute significantly to the achievements of the 24 goals and five pillars of the MDS (as shown in The GNWT Implementation Plan 2014 – 2019). These 10 non-funded activities support Goals 1.3, 2.1, 4.1, 4.7, 5.5 and 5.6.

INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IMPROVES UNDERSTANDING OF MINERAL POTENTIAL AND ACCESS TO MINERAL DEPOSITS

Improving and maintaining existing transportation infrastructure is necessary to access mineral-rich regions, and enable further exploration to better understand mineral potential.

Activity: Provide Funding Opportunities for Transportation Infrastructure (Goal 1.1) PILLAR ONE

The Department of Transportation (DOT) has contributed positively to the implementation of the MDS in 2015 – 2016.

The MDS supported research to conduct a series of four Corridor Access Studies (2014 – 2015). During 2015 – 2016, a transportation route that was identified to provide the greatest economic benefit was from an all-weather road improving access into the Slave Geological Province.

Achievement: MDS activities have advanced planning for strategic NWT transportation infrastructure investments. This includes the completion of the Project Description Report for the Tłı̨cho all-season road, which is currently undergoing an environmental assessment by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board. The GNWT is awaiting a final decision from P3 Canada on its funding application for the project. The GNWT also continues to pursue federal investment in the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway. The $700-million business case for this project was submitted to the federal government under the National Infrastructure Fund of the New Building Canada Plan in 2015. The federal review of this proposal is temporarily suspended pending decisions on new federal infrastructure programming. It is anticipated that the review will resume once the new federal programming has been announced.

The GNWT has also made significant progress developing an access road into the Slave Geological Province, with the ultimate goal of linking to an all-weather road and port in Nunavut. A route has been identified that will provide the greatest economic benefit to the region and the NWT. The GNWT is currently assessing the economic feasibility and P3 potential of this proposed project.

Follow-up work on 2014 – 2015 MDS activities by DOT resulted in:

- The completion of the Project Description Report for the Tłı̨cho all-season road
- Development of a P3 Business Case underway to improve access to the Slave Geological Province Improve Regulatory Clarity and Process Certainty

The MDS guides the GNWT in creating the necessary legal, regulatory, policy and program environment in order to help ensure a balance exists with regard to economic growth and environmental and social protection.

ITI Activity: Development of an *NWT Mineral Resources Act* (Goal 2.1)

Currently, the NWT and Nunavut are the only Canadian jurisdictions that do not have stand-alone legislation dealing with mineral resources and mineral development. This places the NWT at a competitive disadvantage in relation to other Canadian jurisdictions that provide certainty about the regulation of advanced exploration projects and mineral development under stand-alone legislation.

ITI has begun its legislative review in preparation for a new *Mineral Resources Act* (MRA). The legislative process to put a new MRA in place could take several years, depending on a number of issues, including the number and duration of consultations with stakeholders and governments. ITI is currently in the initial phase of a review that will inform the development of the MRA.

The new MRA will oversee subsurface mineral right land tenure and royalties under one Territorial Act which should simplify the administrative processes for proponents. Mine operators will continue to be subject to a variety of other legislation, such as the federal *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA), the *Northwest Territories Lands Act* and the *Waters Act*, under which proponents will continue to have to apply for Land Use Permits and Water Licences. Mine operators would also continue to be subject to a variety of other legislation, such as the *NWT Mine Health and Safety Act*, and the *NWT Wildlife Act*.

MDS activities have contributed to improved regulatory clarity and process certainty.

The Surface Rights Board Act is now an operational decision-making body able to address disputes between holders of surface and sub-surface rights.

Changes to the Northwest Territories Land Use Regulations means that the Minister of Lands has more flexibility to set an appropriate security deposit amount before land use activities are undertaken in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.

Activity: Other Legislative and Regulatory Changes (Goal 2.1)

The Department of Lands (Lands) began the process of reviewing the Northwest Territories Lands Act and the *Commissioner's Land Act* and developing proposed amendments, as identified within the GNWT mandate.

Lands drafted and passed Regulations to the *Surface Rights Board Act*, which came into effect on April 1, 2016. The Board formally assumed independence on that date.

Additionally, section 35(1) of the *Northwest Territories Land Use Regulations* was amended to remove the maximum $100,000 security deposit amount and allow the Minister of Lands to set an appropriate security deposit for Land Use Permits issued in the ISR.

Achievement: MDS activities have contributed to improved regulatory clarity and process certainty. Regulatory changes to the *Surface Rights Board Act* mean that the Board is now an operational decision-making body able to address disputes between holders of surface and sub-surface rights. Additionally, changes to the *Northwest Territories Land Use Regulations* mean that the Minister of Lands has more flexibility to set an appropriate security deposit amount before land use activities are undertaken in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.

Departments of the GNWT participate in meetings of the Regional Development Advisory Group coordinated by the Northern Projects Management Office of the Government of Canada. Four meetings were held with project proponents of mineral and road projects in order to improve transparency and clarity of environmental impact assessment and regulatory processes.

The GNWT prepared criteria for an awards program to recognize community, Aboriginal and non-governmental organizations, government organizations and individuals committed to advancing and promoting sustainable practices in relation to mineral exploration and development in the NWT.

WORK WITH ABORIGINAL PARTNERS TO INCREASE CLARITY TO NAVIGATE THE REGULATORY REGIME

Activity: Work with Aboriginal Government Partners to Finalize Land, Resource and Self-government Agreements (Goal 2.1)

The GNWT continued to work with its federal and Aboriginal government partners to make progress in finalizing land, resource and self-government agreements that are workable, affordable and respectful of Aboriginal rights.

The GNWT has entered into Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding (IG MOU) to formalize government-to-government relationships and engagement to foster cooperation and collaboration with our Aboriginal government partners. Strengthening the GNWT's intergovernmental relations with Aboriginal governments is an integral part of the government's commitment to strengthen relations with Aboriginal governments as stated in "Respect, Recognition, Responsibility – The GNWT's Approach to Engaging with Aboriginal Governments". This approach encouraged the negotiation and signing of IG MOUs, which emphasize a collaborative approach to bilateral meetings.

Aboriginal rights negotiations are underway in all regions of the NWT as Aboriginal governments seek to confirm their Aboriginal and treaty rights in the NWT. The GNWT, as a full partner to these negotiations, continues to promote workable and affordable agreements that respect Aboriginal rights. The GNWT is presently engaged in 14 negotiation tables that are either leading to the conclusion of a Framework Agreement, an Agreement-in-Principle, or a Final Agreement.

One important MDS partner in all of this work is the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations (DAAIR). DAAIR provides support to the Intergovernmental Council (IGC). The IGC was established to provide opportunity for cooperation on land and resource management across jurisdictions while respecting authority and autonomy of each government over lands.

On September 3, 2015, the Council held its second meeting. Three working groups were established under the IGC Secretariat – one on Aboriginal Government Capacity, another on Finance to provide direction on how the Resource Royalty Payments would be calculated and another on Impact Benefits Agreements. The IGC Secretariat has held quarterly meetings to oversee the implementation of the direction provided by the Intergovernmental Council and to discuss the development of a long term strategic plan. This latter project is ongoing and work will continue in cooperation with departments. The IGC Secretariat is also responsible for preparing an annual report on its activities. A website has also been set up to provide information for public access.

Implementation Planning Working Groups have been formed at the Acho Dene Koe (ADK), Manitoba Denesuline and Inuvialuit Self-government negotiating tables. The Inuvialuit and Manitoba Denesuline plans are substantially complete and progress is being made toward the completion of the ADK plan.

Once completed and approved, implementation plans will assist in informing stakeholders on how obligations under land, resources and self-government agreements that relate to or impact mineral development are expected to be implemented.

Progress accomplished towards finalizing land, resource and self-government agreements will result in increased clarity to navigate the regulatory regime for unsettled land claim areas.

Achievement: Important milestones that support the finalization of land, resource and self-government agreements have been achieved. The finalization of three Framework Agreements and two Agreements-in-Principle are the successes of 2015 – 2016 MDS activities. The effort invested in finalizing these agreements will provide clarity sought by Aboriginal governments, industry and other partners to navigate the regulatory regimes related to mineral exploration and potential mine development activities and in the long term strengthen the NWT economy.

Of the eight MOUs that have been signed to-date, three were signed in 2015 – 2016 with the Sahtu Secretariat, the Salt River First Nation and the IRC, respectively.

Important milestones that support the finalization of land, resource and self-government agreements have been achieved.	Two Framework Agreements and three Agreements-in-Principle were finalized in 2015 – 2016.

IMPROVE TRANSPARENCY AND CONSISTENCY OF LAND MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Activity: Support the Completion of Land Use Plans (Goal 4.1) PILLAR FOUR

Regional land use planning provides for clarity and certainty within the regulatory context to improve opportunities for mineral exploration and development. One important challenge is that land use planning is a shared responsibility in the NWT. Achieving results requires significant capacity and a collaborative effort by many partners.

On March 3, 2016, the 18th Legislative Assembly tabled a mandate to advance land use planning in the Northwest Territories. During March 2016, Lands hosted a second Land Use Planning Forum to discuss the development of a *GNWT Land Use Planning Strategic Framework*. At the Forum, the GNWT also provided an update on progress towards completing internal GNWT guidelines on the review, approval and implementation of regional land use plans.

Land use planning processes have been supported.	The Land Use Planning Forum resulted in valuable input into the GNWT Land Use Planning Strategic Framework.

The GNWT continues to participate in Board-led processes to review and amend, as required, the approved land use plans that are in place in the Gwich'in and Sahtu Settlement Areas. In 2015 – 2016, Lands coordinated:

- GNWT's participation in the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board-led process to amend the Sahtu Land Use Plan following the creation of the Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve. The GNWT provided two formal submissions to the Board and participated in three public meetings.
- An inter-departmental review of the revised Gwich'in Land Use Plan and provided a GNWT submission to the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board in February 2016. Lands participated in one meeting with the Planning Board to resolve outstanding issues identified in the submission.

There is an approved land use plan for the Tłı̨cho Settlement Area for Tłı̨cho private lands, but not on the public lands within the Wek'eezhii Resource Management Area. In 2015 – 2016, Lands worked collaboratively with the Tłı̨cho government to complete a scoping study for land use planning in the Wek'eezhii Management Area.

A draft Interim Land Use Plan is under negotiation in the Dehcho Region. The interim land withdrawal is in place. In 2015 – 2016, the GNWT's representative participated in Dehcho Land Use Plan Committee meetings and Lands participated in the Dehcho Land Use Plan working group.

In the South Slave Region, the GNWT initiated dialogue with planning partners and communities in the region about advancing land use plans in the GNWT's South Slave Administrative region. In 2015 – 2016, nine organizations accessed approximately $450,000 in contribution agreement funds to build land use planning capacity.

In 2015 – 2016 Lands completed a land use planning scoping study for the Ingraham Trail-Highway 3 area around Yellowknife and met with external stakeholders and Aboriginal government organizations to discuss the GNWT's interest in recreation management planning for the Yellowknife Periphery Area.

Achievement: Land use planning processes have been supported. The Land Use Planning Forum resulted in valuable input into the GNWT Land Use Planning Strategic Framework and further strengthened relationships between organizations, which is the foundation of effective land use planning in the NWT.

WORK WITH INDUSTRY AND ABORIGINAL PARTNERS TO MAKE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Activity: NWT Mine Training Society (MTS) Activities (Goal 5.6)

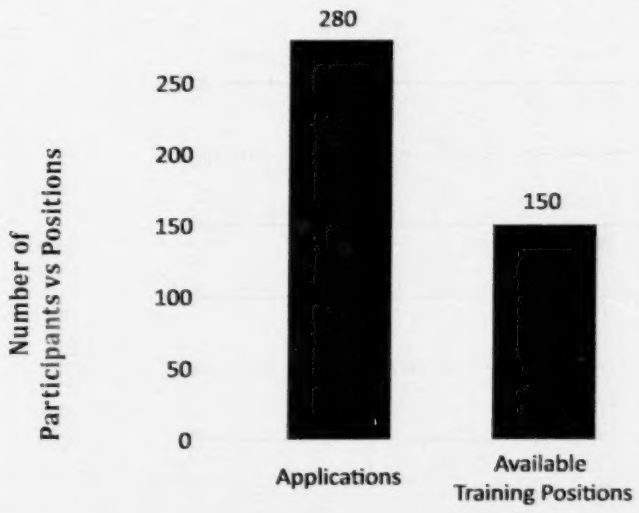
The Mine Training Society (MTS) is a partnership between Aboriginal governments, public government and the mining industry. Their mission is to support Aboriginal people and Northerners in finding long-term employment in the mining industry – primarily by facilitating mining-industry training programs.

In 2015 – 2016, the MTS facilitated the delivery of five training programs: Job Readiness (in partnership with the Tłı̨cho Government), Introduction to Underground Mining, Industrial Safety Training (i.e. Safety Boot Camp), Underground Mining, and Mineral Process Operator Technician. A total of 150 participants took part in the training.

The MTS also submitted a major funding proposal to the Skilled Partnership Fund of Employment and Social Development Canada. The proposal is for 42 months for NWT based programs to support the

delivery of the Surface Miner, Underground Miner, Mineral Processor, and Geoscience Field Assistant Programs in the NWT. In preparation for developing that proposal, MTS met with various mining partners to determine priorities for training and employment. Industry identified a priority for delivery of Surface Miner, Underground Miner and Mineral Processor programs.

FIGURE 4: THERE IS A HIGH DEMAND FOR MINING AND EXPLORATION TRAINING



Achievement: MTS activities have contributed to the development of an educated, trained and readily available northern workforce. The five MTS training programs delivered in 2015 – 2016 had an 80 percent completion rate. The majority of programs (68 percent) were delivered in the smaller NWT communities with the remaining training being offered in Fort Smith and Yellowknife. In total, the five programs were over-subscribed by 87 percent (i.e. 280 participants applied for 150 training positions) which indicates a high demand for this type of training.

As part of developing its proposal to the Skilled Partnership Fund of Employment and Social Development Canada, MTS received written commitments for 107 mining-related jobs and committed to facilitating employment for 375 Aboriginal Northerners.

MTS activities have contributed to developing an educated, trained and readily available northern workforce.

68% of the training was delivered in the smaller NWT communities.

80% of participants completed the training.

SHARING THE BENEFITS OF MINING AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Activity: Sharing Resource Revenues

The GNWT has committed to sharing the resource revenues it collects from public lands in the NWT and to distribute them according to the terms of the Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement and the NWT Intergovernmental Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement.

Resource revenues are royalties, taxes, lease payments and fees paid to governments for mining and petroleum exploration and development activities and uses of water on public lands.

In August 2015, the GNWT completed allocations of revenues to Aboriginal organizations. Payments were made in lump sum to the Acho Dene Koe First Nation, Deninue Kue First Nation, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Kátł'odeeche First Nation, Northwest Territory Métis Nation, Sahtu Secretariat Inc., Salt River First Nation and the Tłı̨cho Government.

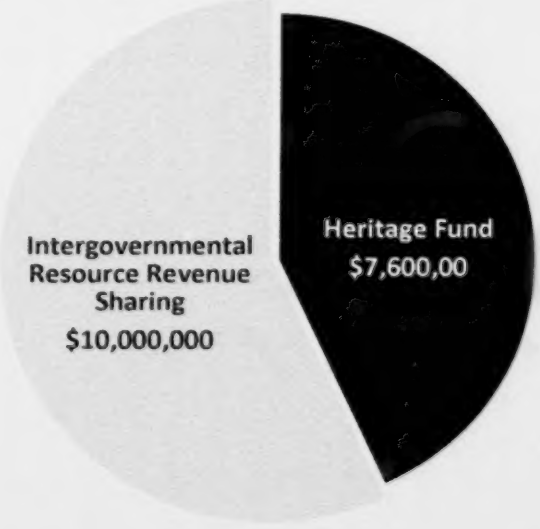
Achievement: The benefits of mineral development are accruing to Aboriginal communities and all NWT residents. The total amount of resource revenue to be transferred to Aboriginal Governments for Fiscal 2015 – 2016 is estimated to be $10.1M. The full amount is to be paid out to the nine Aboriginal partners.

Activity: Contributing to the NWT Heritage Fund (Goal 4.7)

Resource revenues contribute to the NWT Heritage Fund. The Department of Finance commits a percentage of Resource Revenue Royalties after sharing with the Aboriginal governments. The remainder will be applied to strategic infrastructure and debt repayment.

Achievement: Resource revenues to be transferred to the Heritage Fund for Fiscal 2015 – 2016 is an estimated $7.6M. Under current legislation, income generated from the Heritage Fund cannot be withdrawn until 2032 and principal can never be withdrawn.

FIGURE 5: THE BENEFITS OF MINERAL DEVELOPMENT ARE ACCRUING TO ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES AND ALL NWT RESIDENTS



* Main Estimates 2016 – 17 tabled June 1, 2016. www.assembly.gov.nt.ca/sites/default/files/td_50-182.pdf

INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE MINERAL EXPLORATION AND MINING INDUSTRIES, AND RELATED EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Activity: MDS Outreach (Goal 5.5)

ITI's MRD and NTGS divisions work alongside several partners to organize activities that increase awareness of the mining industry and related education as well as training and employment opportunities. Activities are organized for the general public, elementary, middle and high school audiences, college students and communities.

During 2015 – 2016, ITI coordinated a number of outreach activities and new awareness and educational activities. Activities were centered along larger existing events such as the NWT Mining Week and the Yellowknife Geoscience Forum.

NWT Mining Week is an annual event focused on the Mine Rescue Competition and Miners Picnic, hosted by the Workers Safety and Compensation Commission in partnership with the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines. ITI sponsored several activities and coordinated partner contributions from the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines, the NWT Mine Training Society, Aurora College, the NWT Mine Heritage Society, the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Center, CanNor and the NWT Diamond Center.

To improve public awareness:

- Public displays were featured throughout NWT Mining Week. The displays were located in high traffic downtown locations over the noon hour and staffed by MRD and NTGS staff who provided information on mining, geology and exploration.
- A "bring your rock" family event in coordination with the Northern Frontier Visitor's Centre encouraged school aged children to bring their rock specimens and have them identified by onsite geologists;
- An evening public talk on Yellowknife's Mining Heritage was held at the Prince of Wales Heritage Centre;
- Community geology walking tours were organized in coordination with MRD, NTGS, Tourism and Parks, and ITI's North Slave Office. The walks were open to members of the public interested in learning about the rocks and geological potential in their community. Tours included a "Rock Walk" through Yellowknife's downtown core and along the Prelude Lake Nature Trail, a "Prospectors Trail Walk" at Fred Henne Territorial Park, and a "Frame Lake Trail Walk".

Educational events were developed based on existing concepts and included Introduction to Prospecting and Mining 101 which are both open to the public.

The Introduction to Prospecting course was offered in Yellowknife on September 26 – 27; to Tłı̨cho beneficiaries in Behchokǫ̀ on September 29 – 30; and to Yellowknives Dene beneficiaries in Dettah on October 3 – 4, 2015. The Tłı̨cho Government was among the sponsors of the Introduction to Prospecting course in Behchokǫ̀. The Introduction to Prospecting Course is a partnership between the Tłı̨chǫ Government, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the GNWT – Departments of ITI and ECE, Aurora Geosciences, TerraX Minerals Inc., NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines, NWT Mine Training Society and Skills Canada NWT.

The courses were organized and hosted by the Mine Training Society, TerraX Minerals, NTGS and the MRO. The course is designed to bring awareness to the public of the crucial role prospectors have in

the mineral development cycle and provide participants of the course with the knowledge to identify prospecting as a potential career choice. A total of 50 participants completed the two-day course.

During the Yellowknife Geoscience Forum, school classes are invited to attend the 'Geoscience-Education Connection' event held during the Trade Show. Students visited selected exhibitors to ask questions (provided by the exhibitor) and to obtain a stamp in a booklet. Schools can register and take part in these activities as well as the "Hands-on Activity" program organized and conducted by NTGS outreach geologists. Four "Hands-on Activity" sessions were offered in 2015 – 2016 at schools in Yellowknife and Dettah – with a total of 86 Grade 4 and 5 students attending. Additionally, 13 classes of students from eight different schools in Yellowknife, Dettah and Weledeh attended the Geoscience Trade Show.

NTGS outreach geologists also offer customized school visits in communities and teach at colleges and field schools.

Achievement: MDS outreach activities are contributing to increase public awareness of the mineral exploration and mining industries, and related education opportunities. ITI began and partially implemented an awareness and outreach campaign by coordinating existing ongoing activities, creating new partnerships and adding new pilot activities to identify longer term outreach programs.

Anecdotal evidence indicates that the various outreach activities undertaken in 2015 – 2016 were received positively by the public. Additionally, the Introduction to Prospecting course is contributing to improved public awareness – as seen with the first deliveries of the course outside of Yellowknife, in Behchokǫ̀ and Dettah.

More detailed information on outreach events is being collected in 2016-2017 through the development and implementation of standardized participant surveys. Those surveys are collecting participant feedback on common questions – using a standardized scale – so that results for next year's annual report will be more consistent and include all outreach activities undertaken via the MDS.

Summary of Non-Funded Key Activities

In summary, the non-funded key activities in 2015 – 2016 have contributed to several different short-term outcomes of the MDS

Overall, the non-funded activities have: led to increased investments in NWT transportation infrastructure; contributed to improved regulatory clarity and process certainty; contributed to the finalization of land, resource and self-government agreements; supported the completion of land use planning processes; contributed to developing an educated, trained and readily available northern workforce; ensured that the benefits of mineral development are accruing to Aboriginal communities and all NWT residents; and contributed to increased public awareness of the mineral exploration and mining industries, and related education opportunities.

3.3 Other Activities

Other MDS activities show the breadth and depth of the GNWT's commitment to promoting responsible mineral resource development in the NWT through cross-departmental and cross-stakeholder participation, and in partnership with Aboriginal governments and external partners. The additional MDS activities are varied in nature and involve numerous partners. The following is a sample of these activities.

(Goal 5.5)

The CSCR unit within ITI is developing and implementing a public education program on resource development called the Resources and Energy Development Information (REDI). Designed to provide evidence-based information to increase public awareness and knowledge of resource development, the initiative addresses a current challenge to the advancement of resource projects in the NWT.

(Goal 1.3)

The MDS, in partnerships with the PWS Energy Division of PWS, supports the implementation of the NWT Energy Action Plan. The Energy Plan is a product of a collaborative policy development process, reflecting the goals and aspirations of residents, communities, and Aboriginal governments. The process confirmed that the collective vision for energy in the NWT hinges upon reducing imported oil, reducing our high energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions, and increasing utilization of renewable forms of energy.

(Goal 4.5)

ITI monitors and reports on the negotiations, implementation and monitoring of Socio Economic Agreements (SEAs). SEAs are follow-up mechanisms for the socio-economic commitments that resource developers make during the Environmental Assessment (EA) process. SEAs monitor developer commitments with the goal of maximizing benefits to communities in the NWT.

(Goal 5.1)

The MDS also supports activities that enable NWT residents to benefit from employment opportunities in the mineral resource development sector. Tools such as the Labour Market Information Resource are being made available not only to decision makers but also, in plain language, for teachers and students.

For the full list of all MDS activities, and the outputs of those activities for 2015 – 2016, refer to the *2015 – 2016 MDS Performance Measures Report*.

4. How the MDS Supports Other GNWT Commitments

The GNWT's Mandate for the 18th Legislative Assembly commits specifically to "support mineral exploration and the mining sector, by implementing the Mineral Development Strategy, capturing opportunities to build transportation infrastructure that enables resources to get to market, closing the skills gap in the mining sector, implementing the Mining Incentive Program, developing and proposing a Mineral Resources Act, and supporting Aboriginal governments to build capacity in dealing with mining-related activity" (Priority 1.1.8).

- Additional GNWT mandate commitments fulfilled, in whole or in part, by the ongoing implementation of the MDS include:
- capturing opportunities for investment in transportation infrastructure by working to secure funding to advance the Mackenzie Valley Highway, making an all-weather road from Highway 3 to Whatì, and improving access into the Slave Geological Province (Priority 1.1.1)
- closing the skills gap using the Skills4Success Strategic Framework, and by working with Aurora College on a renewed strategic plan, refocusing support for postsecondary institutions in the NWT, improving outcomes from our Community Learning Centres, strengthening the apprenticeship program, and improving our career development services (Priority 1.1.6).
- ensuring that residents have meaningful opportunities to participate in the assessment of potential benefits and risks associated with resource development (Priority 1.1.10)
- attracting foreign direct investment, and cross-promote minerals, furs, fish, forest products, and tourism to investors and markets (Priority 1.2.9)
- supporting the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP) and responding to recommendations in the Northwest Territories Environmental Audit for improved environmental management (Priority 1.3.5)
- resolving outstanding land, resource and self-government agreements with the Akaitcho, Dehcho, NWT Metis Nation, Acho Dene Koe and the Government of Canada during the term of our government, and advocating that particular focus in our negotiations be placed on land quantum (Priority 5.1.4)

For the full list of GNWT commitments that are supported by MDS activities, see Appendix I.

5. Next Steps

Responsible and sustainable mineral exploration and development are essential to ensuring lasting benefits for all NWT residents. The five-year MDS Implementation Plan identifies key activities based on MDS partner recommendations and other GNWT strategies that will support a balanced approach to mineral development in the NWT and address priorities established by the 17th and 18th Legislative Assemblies of the NWT.

The MDS is a 10 – 15 year Strategy, with short-term outcomes that are expected to be realized and reportable within five years, medium-term outcomes between five and 10 years, and long-term outcomes after 10 years. The achievement of the various outcomes (short, medium, long-term) is dependent on the goals and timeframes of its implementation.

The commitments made in the MDS require ongoing updates to the implementation of short, medium and long term goals as defined in the five-year Implementation Plan. The collaboration and involvement of many MDS partners is critical to its implementation. The annual review of the Implementation Plan serves to monitor the status of activities and enables the MDS to be a living document that can be updated regularly, reflect changes and maintain efficiency.

A reporting plan has been designed to track implementation and achievements. The Performance Measurement Framework allows for the regular collection of information and monitoring of how the strategy and its related programs are doing at any point in time. Similar to the Implementation Plan, the Performance Measurement Framework will be updated on an ongoing basis to reflect changes in MDS activities and to reflect new data sources that come on-stream to better measure outcomes.

This annual report is the first in this format. Its intent is to focus on key activities and achievements toward the fulfillment of each specific MDS goal. Future annual reports will allow tracking of progress made and identify where improvements are needed.

The GNWT is committed to ensuring that the MDS maintains its relevancy and evolves with the changing needs of the NWT. The key next step will be a review of recommendations received from MDS partners on opportunities to improve implementation work and determine whether the MDS is having the intended impact.

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Appendix I: MDS Activities That Support Gnwt Commitments

MDS ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT THE COMMITMENTS OF THE 18TH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE GNWT	
GNWT Commitments 18th Assembly	**Mineral Development Strategy Key Activities**
1.1.1 We will capture opportunities for investment in transportation infrastructure by working to secure funding to advance the Mackenzie Valley Highway, make an all-weather road from Highway 3 to Whatì, and improve access into the Slave Geologic Province.	1.3.3 Pursue federal funding opportunities for transportation infrastructure
1.1.5 We will get more 18 – 24 year olds into the labour market by using a better mix of improved educational attainment and skill development, while matching skills with employer needs through improved career development supports.	5.3.2 Provide a focused and coordinated career development awareness program for students, employers, communities and governments 5.6.1 Work with industry to identify new opportunities for training and employment 5.6.2 Pursue ongoing funding for the MTS
1.1.6 We will take steps to close the skills gap using the Skills4Success strategic framework, and by working with Aurora College on a renewed strategic plan, refocusing support for postsecondary institutions in NWT, improving outcomes from our Community Learning Centres, strengthening the apprenticeship program, and improving our career development services.	5.2.1 Develop and implement training programs that promote participation in the mineral development industry

MDS ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT THE COMMITMENTS OF THE 18TH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE GNWT

GNWT Commitments 18th Assembly	Mineral Development Strategy Key Activities
1.1.8 We will support mineral exploration and the mining sector, by • implementing the Mineral Development Strategy, • capturing opportunities to build transportation infrastructure that enables resources to get to market, • closing the skills gap in the mining sector, • implementing the Mining Incentive Program, • developing and proposing a Mineral Resources Act, • and supporting Aboriginal governments to build capacity in dealing with mining-related activities.	1.1.1 to 5.6.2 (all Mineral Development Strategy Key Activities) 1.1.4 Conduct surficial, geophysical and permafrost research 1.3 Improve access to mineral potential by investing in NWT's infrastructure and energy development 5.2.1 Develop and implement training programs that promote participation in the mineral development industry 1.2.1a Implement incentive programs for prospectors and exploration businesses 2.1.4 Develop a new leading edge Mineral Resources Act and associated regulations 2.1.1 Work with federal and Aboriginal government partners to finalize land, resource and self-government agreements 3.1.1 Establish an NWT Aboriginal Mining Council 3.2.1 Assist in the development of community planning efforts through training and awareness activities 3.3.1 Provide technical and financial resources to Aboriginal communities for activities such as prospecting/ exploration training, mining conferences and mapping workshops 3.3.1 Other activities / actions in support of benefits to Aboriginal communities
1.1.10 We will ensure that residents have meaningful opportunities to participate in the assessment of potential benefits and risks associated with resource development.	1.4.1 Develop and implement a promotion and marketing strategy 2.2.1 Provide 'one-stop' services to assist industry and other users to navigate the engagement and regulatory processes 3.1.1 Establish an NWT Aboriginal Mining Council 3.1.1 Other activities / actions in support of enhancing Aboriginal engagement

MDS ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT THE COMMITMENTS OF THE 18TH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE GNWT

GNWT Commitments 18th Assembly	Mineral Development Strategy Key Activities
1.1.12 We will support the growth of Aboriginal business development corporations and the capacity of Aboriginal governments, through the completion and implementation of memoranda of understanding that reflect the economic opportunity objectives found in modern land claims.	3.1.1 Establish an NWT Aboriginal Mining Council 3.1.1 Other activities / actions in support of enhancing Aboriginal engagement 3.2.1 Assist in the development of community planning efforts through training and awareness activities 3.3.1. Provide technical and financial resources to Aboriginal communities for activities such as prospecting/exploration training, mining conferences and mapping workshops 3.3.1 Other activities / actions in support of benefits to Aboriginal communities 4.6.1 Provide business development advisory services to NWT businesses
1.2.8 We will increase exports by working with the tourism, diamonds, and traditional economy sectors to promote NWT products to international markets.	1.4.1 Develop and implement a promotion and marketing strategy
1.2.9 We will attract foreign direct investment, and cross-promote minerals, furs, fish, forest products, and tourism to investors and markets.	1.2.1 Implement incentive programs for prospectors and exploration businesses 1.2.1 Implement incentive programs for prospectors and exploration businesses 1.4.1 Develop and implement a promotion and marketing strategy
1.3.1 Using the Land Use and Sustainability Framework to be clear and transparent, we will: • complete land-use plans for all areas, including regions without land and resources agreements, in collaboration with Aboriginal governments. • finalize and implement the Conservation Action Plan in order to finalize existing candidate protected areas. • develop and integrated comprehensive approach to the management of contaminated sites including prioritizing, sharing or responsibility in collaboration with other governments, monitoring, and a sound financial security system to prevent public liabilities.	4.1.1 Support the completion and implementation of land use plans across the NWT including unsettled lands 4.1.2 Complete the identification of core areas for protection (conservation network planning) 4.2.1 Conduct inspections in an effective, coordinated and timely manner 4.2.1 Other activities/actions that promote environmental stewardship

MDS ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT THE COMMITMENTS OF THE 18TH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE GNWT

GNWT Commitments 18th Assembly	Mineral Development Strategy Key Activities
1.3.2 In order to advance the territorial vision of land and resource management in accordance with the Land Use Sustainability Framework, we will evolve our legislative, regulatory, and policy systems by: • developing and proposing a Mineral Resources Act • making amendments to the NWT Mining Regulations • developing and proposing amendments to the Waters Act • we will review and develop amendments to the Northwest Territories Heritage Fund Act in light of devolution to ensure a defined revenue stream and stronger public governance.	2.1.4 Develop a new leading edge mineral Resources Act and associated regulations 2.1.4 Develop a new leading edge mineral Resources Act and associated regulations 4.4.3 Establish a process to determine water standards on a site-specific basis in order to derive water licence limits 4.7.1 Pass the NWT Heritage Fund Act
1.3.5 We will support the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP) and respond to recommendations in the Northwest Territories Environmental Audit for improved environmental management.	4.4.1 Develop and implement approaches related to monitoring, assessment and management of cumulative effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat 4.4.2 Develop guidelines for the mineral industry to minimize cumulative effects on wildlife and wildlife habitats
1.4.1 We will develop a territorial climate change strategy that takes into account northern energy demands and the cost of living, while reflecting international and national commitments to lower greenhouse gas emissions, exploring options for carbon pricing systems, and capturing local alternatives such as biomass, wind, geothermal and solar.	1.3.1 Implement the 3-year Energy Action Plan
3.2.1 We will develop and implement a multi-year management strategy for barren-ground caribou in the Northwest Territories.	4.4.1 Develop and implement approaches related to monitoring, assessment and management of cumulative effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat 4.4.2 Develop guidelines for the mineral industry to minimize cumulative effects on wildlife and wildlife habitats
3.3.2 We will create a new three-year energy action plan, building on previous investments made over the past three years and the outcomes of the energy plan review.	1.3.1 Implement the 3-year Energy Action Plan
3.4.3 We will continue to investigate and implement renewable and alternative energy solutions to replace the use of imported diesel fuel for power generation in the Thermal Zone and reduce the use of diesel fuel for heating in all regions, including looking at the feasibility of wind energy, solar generation, geothermal and biomass energy initiatives.	1.3.1 Implement the 3-year Energy Action Plan
3.4.5 We will work with our partners in the federation and in the territory to implement a Canadian Energy Strategy, by participating in intergovernmental working groups on energy efficiency, energy delivery, technology and innovation, and transitioning our country towards a lower carbon economy.	1.3.1 Implement the 3-year Energy Action Plan

MDS ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT THE COMMITMENTS OF THE 18TH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE GNWT

GNWT Commitments 18th Assembly	Mineral Development Strategy Key Activities
3.5.2 We will capture opportunities for investment in transportation infrastructure by working to secure funding to advance the Mackenzie Valley Highway, make an all-weather road from Highway 3 to Whati, and improve access into the Slave Geologic Province.	1.3.3 Pursue federal funding opportunities for transportation infrastructure
5.1.4 We will work to resolve outstanding land, resource and self-government agreements with the Akaitcho, Dehcho, NWT Metis Nation, Acho Dene Koe and the Government of Canada during the term of our government, and advocate that particular focus in our negotiations be placed on land quantum.	2.1.1 Work with federal and Aboriginal government partners to finalize land, resource and self-government agreements 2.1.3 Make changes to improve regulatory clarity and process certainty 2.1.4 Develop a new leading edge mineral Resources Act and associated regulations 4.1.1 Support the completion and implementation of land use plans across the NWT including unsettled lands 4.2.1 Conduct inspections in an effective, coordinated and timely manner
5.1.7 We will continue to support the Intergovernmental Council towards implementation of the vision of cooperative and collaborative management of lands and resources, as set out in the Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement.	3.2.1 Support the Intergovernmental Council in its work related to cooperative and collaborative management of lands and resources
5.2.1 We will seek to establish a joint committee between Cabinet Ministers and Regular Members to share information and discuss approaches on the advancement of land, resource, and self-government agreements as well as initiatives to enhance relationships with Aboriginal governments.	3.2.1 Support the Intergovernmental Council in its work related to cooperative and collaborative management of lands and resources
5.2.5 We will work to improve the NWT integrated resource management regime to ensure the regime reflects NWT interests and priorities.	2.3.1 With CanNor and NPMO, facilitate the environmental impact assessment and regulatory process framework for resource development and infrastructure projects
5.3.10 We will do a better job of making our residents, particularly those in smaller communities, aware of available government programs and services, and how to access them, through Single Window Service Centres and our Government Service Officers.	2.2.1 Provide 'one-stop' services to assist industry and other users to navigate the engagement and regulatory processes

Government of Northwest Territories
Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

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